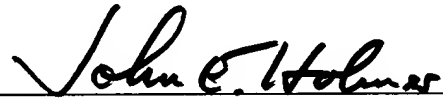


A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed herewith for consideration by the Examiner. The publication cited in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement discusses the use of bar code labels to identify samples that are placed in blood collection tubes. This is an example of the admitted prior art discussed in the background section of the present application (e.g., at page 2, lines 17-18). The bar codes used on these labels are not equivalent to the universally unique container identifiers of the present invention, since the prior art bar codes identify the samples rather than the containers in which they are placed.

The Examiner's reconsideration and withdrawal of the final rejection is respectfully requested in view of the claim amendments and remarks presented herein. Should the Examiner wish to discuss this application with the Applicant's representative, she is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Marked-up Version to Show Changes Made

33. (Amended) A method for identifying a biological sample associated with a container, comprising:

providing a container suitable for receiving a biological sample;

marking said container with a universally unique identifier which distinguishes said container from other like containers independently of the contents of said container;

placing a biological sample in said container;

associating said universally unique identifier with information relating to said biological sample; and

utilizing said universally unique identifier to identify said biological sample.

43. (Amended) A method for identifying a container, comprising:

providing a container having an outer surface;

marking said outer surface of said container with a universally unique identifier which distinguishes said container from other like containers independently of the contents of said container, said universally unique identifier comprising one or more areas having a first specular reflectance that differs from a second specular reflectance of said outer surface adjacent to said one or more areas;

detecting said universally unique identifier; and

associating said universally unique identifier with one or more items of information pertaining to use, planned use or contents of said container.